## **Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, February 16, 2025 Sunday of the Prodigal Son





Archpriest Nikolai Breckenridge, Rector

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Mitred Archpriest James Mason, Attached

Deacon Geoffrey LoBalbo

Patricia Stetz Grammes, Parish Council President

Reader Nicholas Lezinsky, Choir Director

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### **Note to our Guests and Friends Visiting St. Nicholas:**

We offer a most sincere and heart-felt welcome to St. Nicholas Church! Please be advised that according to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves to receive the Holy Sacrament.

(Please note - Information to be included in next Sunday's bulletin must be submitted by noon on Thursday. Thank you! ~ Jennifer N. Bzik)

Please turn off or silence your electronic devices before entering the church. Thank you.

980 Bridle Path Road | Bethlehem, PA 18017-3120 | T: 610-867-0402 stnicholasoca.org

## Schedule for the Week of February 16, 2025

**SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON – Tone 1. St. Nicholas, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Archbishop of Japan (1912).** Martyrs Pamphilius–Presbyter, Valens–Deacon, Paul, Seleucus, Porphyrius, Julian, Theodulus, Elias, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Samuel, and Daniel, at Cæsarea in Palestine (307-309). St. Maruthas, Bishop of Martyropolis in Mesopotamia (422). Persian Martyrs in Martyropolis in Mesopotamia (4th c.).

### Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> - Fr. Nikolai's Day Off Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

## **Coffee Hour Today**

Coffee Hour will be hosted by Judy Lezinsky In Honor of Dorothy Havrilko's Birthday & Fr. Nikolai's Names Day

Donations from today's Coffee Hour will be donated to St. Tikhon's Summer Camp to offset the cost of food for campers and staff. We will be hosting other upcoming coffee hours for this same cause.

## Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

\*\*\*Live Stream will also be available for all services. \*\*\*

Saturday, February 22	Memorial Saturday
	8:50 am Reading of Hours
	9:00 am - Memorial Divine Liturgy
	5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sunday, February 23	Sunday of the Last Judgment
	9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
	9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
Saturday, March 1	4:30 am - General Panikhida
	5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sunday, March 2	Forgiveness Sunday / Cheesefare Sunday
	9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
	9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
	12:00 pm - Forgiveness Vespers

First Week of Lent - Clean Week	
Monday, March 3	7:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew
	of Crete
Tuesday, March 4	7:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew
	of Crete
Wednesday, March 5	9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy
	7:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew
	of Crete
Thursday, March 6	7:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew
	of Crete
Friday, March 7	6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday, March 8	St. Theodore the Recruit
	8:50 am - Reading of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour
	9:00 am - Divine Liturgy St. Theodore the Recruit
	5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sunday, March 9	The Sunday of Orthodoxy
	9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
Wodnosday March 12	9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, March 12 Friday, March 14	6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy 9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy
Filday, March 14	6:00 pm - Akathist - St. Nicholas
Saturday, March 15	Memorial Saturday
Saturday, March 13	8:50 am - Reading of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour
	9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
	5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sunday, March 16	St. Gregory Palamas
canaay, maren 10	9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
	9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, March 19	6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy
Friday, March 21	9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy
<b>7</b> -	

Saturday, March 22

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 23

Sunday of the Cross

 $9:10 \; am$  - Reading of the Hours

6:00 pm - Akathist - to our Lord's Passion

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Monday, March 24 Eve of Annunciation

6:00 pm - Vespers for Annunciation

Tuesday, March 25 Annunciation

8:50 am - Reading of the 9th Hour

9:00 am - Festal Vesperal Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March 26 Friday, March 28 6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy 9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Fish Dinner

6:00 pm - Akathist - Pochaev Icon of the Theotokos

Saturday, March 29 Memorial Saturday

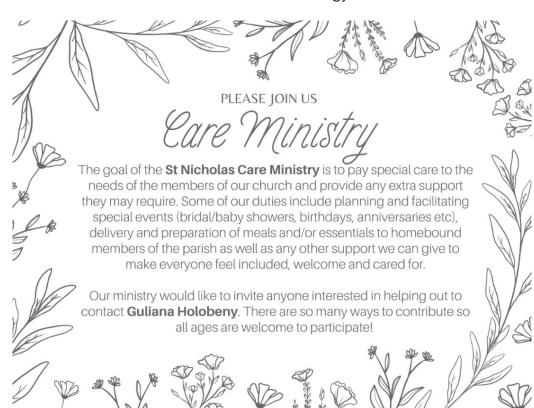
8:50 am - Reading of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 30 St. John Climacus

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy



## **Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, February 16, 2025 Sunday of the Prodigal Son

**Tone 1** Troparion (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

**Tone 4 Troparion** (St. Nicholas of Japan)

Thou didst share in the ways of the Apostles and sat upon their throne, O faithful and divinely-wise servant of Christ, chosen harp of the divine Spirit, vessel over¬flowing with the love of Christ, and Enlightener of Japan, O Holy Hierarch Nicholas, Equal of the Apostles, entreat the Life-Giving Trinity on behalf of all thy flock, and for the whole world.

**Tone 3 Kontakion** (from the Lenten Triodion)

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou hadst given me. Therefore I cry to Thee like the Prodigal: "I have sinned before Thee, O compassionate Father; receive me a penitent, and make me as one of Thy hired servants!"

**Tone 4 Kontakion** (St. Nicholas of Japan)

O Hierarch Nicholas, Equal of the Apostles, the country of Japan received thee as a sojourner and a foreigner At first thou didst regard thyself as a stranger, but by pouring forth the warmth and light of Christ, thou didst change thine enemies into spiritual sons, and by imparting the grace of God to them, thou didst establish the Church of Christ; and now pray for thy sons and daughters that they may cry out, "Rejoice, our good shepherd."

**Tone 1 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee! (Ps. 32:22)

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)

### **Epistle**

Read by Reader Michael Metz

(1 Corinthians 6:12-20) All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

### Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me. (Ps. 17:48)

He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (Ps. 17:51)

### Gospel

(Luke 15:11-32) Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son.

Make me like one of your hired servants." And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found."

### **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Alleluia, Alleluia!

# Candle Offerings for Sunday, February 16, 2025

Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)

Happy 1st Birthday Nathan Roberts, Offered by Baba & PaPa

### **Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)**

Happy Birthday GGma (Dorothy Havrilko) Offered by Sasha, Sophia, Jacob, Brooke, Elena, Victoria, Nicholas

Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)

Happy Birthday Dorothy Havrilko, Offered by Nick & Judy

#### **Votives in Altar**

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Family

### **Votives in Iconostas**

In Honor Of Father Nikolai's Name's Day, Offered by Parish Family

### **Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)**

In Honor Of Father Nikolai's Name's Day, Offered by Parish Family

#### Crosses

Happy Birthday Dorothy Havrilko, Offered by Havrilko's & Slabonda's

### Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

In Memory Of Mary Keysock, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

### Vigils on Icon Table (2)

In Honor Of Father Nikolai's Name's Day, Offered by Parish Family

### Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

Happy Birthday Evie Roberts, Offered by Baba & PaPa

### Vigils - Icon of St. John the Baptist (2)

In Memory Of Mom, Dad & Joan, Offered by Pat & Tom

### **Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist**

In Memory Of Mom, Dad & Joan, Offered by Pat & Tom

### **Vigils on South Wall Window Sill (3)**

Happy Anniversary Dan & Jean Jubinski, Offered by Peter & Sarah

### Vigil of St. Michael (1)

In Memory Of Michael Stetz, Offered by Pat & Tom

### Vigil of St. Andrew (1)

For Health Of Nicolae, Offered by The Lungu Family

HEN ST. NICHOLAS was a child, he dreamed of being a soldier but changed his mind after hearing about exciting overseas missionary work and reading a book about Japan. In 1860 while finishing semi-

nary, he answered a call to become chaplain at the Russian consulate in Japan. He was tonsured a monk, ordained a deacon and then a priest, and traveled to Japan. At that time it was illegal to preach Christianity in Japan. St. Nicholas immersed himself in learning the Japanese language and culture, eventually becoming a

fluent speaker of Japanese. Some of the early converts included a Shinto priest named Sawabe

and a doctor named Sakaya. In 1873 the Japanese government granted St. Nicholas's Orthodox mission official religious toleration, and he was made the first bishop of Japan. He then moved

to Tokyo, built a cathedral, and established schools for catechumens and the instruction of Japanese clergy. By this time there were more than 1,000 baptized converts. St. Nicholas was especially concerned with building an ethnically Japanese church for

the Japanese people, using their own language in worship. St. Nicholas worked constantly until his peaceful repose in 1912.



Takuma Sawabe was a shinto priest and samural, and baptized by St. Nicholas in 1868.

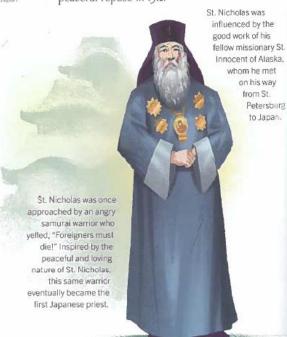


### FASCINATING FACTS

Japan is nicknamed "Land of the Rising Sun." a translation of the Chinese word Nippon, which literally means "ongin of the sun." Japan's position as the only land east of China makes it appear that the sun rises from that land.

Sr. Nicholas had to overcome many cultural obstacles in Japan. For example, the historic Japanese code of honor sees the love of enemies as cowardly.

Upon his passing. St. Nicholas was immediately venerated as Equal to the Apostles for his incredible witness and labors. At his death, there were over 33,000 Orthodox Christians in Japan.



## **Lenten Soup Sunday**



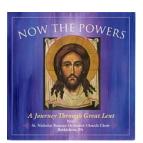
Our Lenten soup Sundays are back and we need your help! While we love making new and delicious soups for our fellow parishioners the task has become a bit overwhelming as the sale has grown! We know how many fantastic cooks we have at St. Nicholas and we'd

love to have volunteers donate soups each week. We will provide the quart containers if you will fill them (about 10 per soup)! Please



consider joining us in this Lenten mission! If you're interested in helping please contact Marina Murgia (610) 533-4719 or Lori Lezinsky (484) 375-3874 Thank you!

## Prepare for Lent with the St. Nicholas Choir CD Now The Powers



For the Orthodox Christian, the liturgical year revolves around the celebration of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In this recording we share with you the rich and powerful message of the Church's teaching about Great Lent and Pascha as conveyed through her liturgical worship. The music collection of over 25 hymns takes you on a moving, spiritual journey to Pascha, beginning with Pre-Lenten season and

ending with the triumphant Paschal proclamation that "Christ is Risen...!" Contact Nick Lezinsky if you are interested in purchasing a CD.

## **Pierogi Making Schedule**

NO Pierogi making week of February 17, 18, 19
NO Pierogi making week of February 24 25, 26 --- Halupki Making
NO Pierogi making week of March 3, 4, 5 (Beginning of Great Lent)
RESUME Pierogi making week of March 10, 11 12

\*\*\* This schedule is subject to change. \*\*\*

## **Address Change/Update**

Nancy A. Sabol moved from Riverton Senior Living/Westminster Village to Sacred Heart Senior Living at Saucon Valley. To ensure that correspondence properly makes its way to Nancy, please send any cards or correspondence in care of her daughter, Elizabeth, at

2443 Black River Road #4 Bethlehem, PA 18015

## Women's Psalter Group - Great Lent 2025

This year we are excited to be organizing a Women's Psalter group for Great Lent! What is a Psalter group? A group of ladies who want to pray together and deepen their spiritual journey during the Lenten fast. We hope to have at least 20 or more women sign up. Each day you will read a particular section of the Psalter (Psalms). Since the Psalter is traditionally broken up into 20 Kathisma readings, everyday during the Lenten fast we would collectively be reading the entire Psalter together. If interested, please contact Judy Lezinsky. Please provide your name and email address so that she can set up the groups.  $\odot$ .

## Halupki Making Sunday, February 23 - Tuesday, February 25

Dear Parish Family,

We are doing a special winter halupki making this year at the end of February to replenish our very popular frozen 4-packs, and make ahead for another halupki dinner. This is a big job, with many steps, requiring much help. Please see the schedule and tasks below. Any and all help will be appreciated! Lunches will be served, Lenten ones on Monday and Tuesday. For more information, please contact Val Roberts.

## **Halupki Schedule**

### SUNDAY AFTER COFFEE HOUR

Set up halupki room and hall

Steam and devein cabbage

Cook and mix 8-10 batches of rice/onions/seasonings

Pick up meat for Monday

Make sauce

Rip foil for wrapping

Count out trays and pans

Clean up and dishes

### **MONDAY**

7:00 mix meat/rice and make balls

Steam rest of cabbage

8:00 roll halupki

Cook and mix 2-4 batches of rice/onions/seasonings

Make sauce

### After rolling

Devein rest of cabbage

Clean up and dishes

Pick up meat for Tuesday

Repack pans into 4s with sauce Evening

Wrap/freeze remaining large pans of halupki

### **TUESDAY**

7:00 mix meat/rice and make balls

8:00 roll halupki

Make sauce

### After rolling

Devein rest of cabbage

Clean up and dishes

Repack pans into 4s with sauce

scrub floors - kitchen, hall by roasters, halupki room Evening

Wrap/freeze remaining large pans of halupki

## **Annual Parish Meeting Notice**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2025. The meeting will be held in the church hall immediately following the Divine Liturgy. A light luncheon will be served. All are encouraged to read the agenda and reports thoroughly and prepare their questions to ensure an expedited parish meeting. Please note that there will be no means of virtual participation in the meeting.

According to the bylaws of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the required quorum for a parish meeting is the attendance of at least 25% of voting members in good standing. A quorum must be maintained throughout the meeting. If a quorum is not present, the meeting shall then be rescheduled by the Parish Council in consultation with the Rector, at which time the members present will constitute a quorum.

### **Annual Church Office Elections**

What you need to know to vote in the Annual Parish Meeting being held on February 16, 2025 and to run for Church Office: According to our Bylaws in order to vote and participate in the discussions you must be a member at least 18 years of age and in good standing (both financially and sacramentally) for one (1) year. In order to run for Church Office you must be have been a practicing Orthodox Christian for at least one (1) year and a parishioner of this Parish for a prior 12 month period.

## If you are interested in serving on the Parish Council, please see Fr. Nikolai or any current member of the Parish Council.

Please note the Parish Council Vice President and Secretary are chosen by and from the newly elected Parish Council to serve for one (1) year terms.

### **Parish Council Officer Positions**

Parish Council President (one year) Treasurer (one year) Financial Secretary (one year)

### **Parish Council Positions**

Two (2) three year terms

### **Auditor Positions**

Four (4) one year terms

### **Cemetery Committee Chair**

One (1) one year term

### **Diocesan Assembly Positions**

Diocesan Assembly Delegate Diocesan Assembly Alternate

### **All American Council Positions**

All American Council Delegate All American Council Alternate

### **Voting Members**

A voting member is a parishioner who has the privilege of attending, being counted when determining the number required for a quorum, taking part in discussion, and voting at any annual or special parish meeting. A voting member may also have the privilege of being elected as a member of the Parish Council if he or she possesses the appropriate gifts and disposition for working with others. A voting member is in "good standing" if he or she:

- a. Is a baptized and chrismated an Orthodox Christian;
- **b.** Is at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- **c.** Partakes of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion in this Parish at least once during the previous 12 month period;
- **d.** Has been a practicing Orthodox Christian for at least one (1) year and a parishioner of this Parish for a prior 12 month period;
- **e.** Has demonstrated commitment to the defined financial obligation during the previous 12 month period. (\$520 per year) If the financial obligation cannot be reached, an exemption can be requested and given by the Rector;
- **f.** "Good standing" is determined in collaboration with the Rector and the Council President;
- **g.** Voting membership in two or more Orthodox parishes is not permitted.
- **h.** A Voting Member has accepted the right, privilege, and responsibility to vote in Parish Assemblies. A Voting Member may be considered for election to office in appropriate Parish bodies. A Voting Member is eligible for election as a delegate to the Diocesan Assembly and the All-American Council.

## **Annual Parish Meeting Reports Available**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2025. Please be advised that printed copies of the agenda and reports will be available at the candle desk beginning on Sunday, January 26, 2025. Please stop by to pick up a copy at your convenience. If you would like a copy emailed to you or mailed to you, please contact the Administrative Assistant at Assistant4StNicholas@outlook.com. Please note that due to postal delays, we cannot guarantee that mailed copies will arrive prior to the meeting.

Heavenly Father...

Physician of our souls and bodies, Who has sent Your only-begotten Son to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit and heal us, Your Servants, from all physical and spiritual ailments, through the grace of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant to us patience in this sickness, strength of body, and recovery of health. Lord, You have taught us through Your Word to pray for each other that we may be healed. For You are the source of healing, and to You we give glory; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Prayers for the Health of the Servants of God:**

**Archbishops: Melchisedek Pleska, Nathaniel Popp** 

**Igumen: Patric Carpenter, David Lewis** 

**Archpriests:** Nikolai Breckenridge, Thomas Edwards, John Perich, James Mason, Claude Vinyard, Dimitri Oselinsky, David Shewczyk, Ian Shipley, James Weremedic, John Onofrey, George Hasenecz, Emilian Hutnyan

**Priest:** John Nightingale **Deacons:** Geoffrey LoBalbo

**Matushki:** Liudmyla Breckenridge, Marie Mason, Johanna Bohush, Evelyn Edwards, Paraskeva Vansuch, Myra Kovalak, Gloria Martin, Katia Vansuch, Lisa Weremedic, Stephanie Onofrey, Julia Romanchak

**Servants:** Bethany Bruder, Theresa Butler, Helen Cotirgasanu, David G. Cudlic, Val Danchenko, Maryann Dudash, Christopher Felix, Patricia Felix, Olga Frimenko, David Gowarty, Tom Grammes, Rachel Hardesty, Artemiy Hartman, Kalista Hartman, Nicholas Hazzard, Don Holobeny, Jonathan Hontz, Susanna Hrebinka, Sherry Hromiak, Krista Irwin, Michael H. Isbansky, Sarah Jubinski, Alexandra Keysock, William Keysock, Mary K. Koretski, Stephanie Koretski, Bernard Kusior, Jean Kusior, David Lezinsky, Judy Lezinsky, Radu Lungu, Mircea Lupo, Victoria Lustig, Olga Maksimova, Amber Metz, Michael Metz, Lanelle Mikolaitis, Catherine Miller, Nicolae & Doina Marian, Kylie Pinho, Kiera Pheiffer, William Potter, Laurel Riley, Gordon Roberts, Leah Roberts, Barbara Roman, Victoria Ross, Mary Ruzila, Nancy A. Sabol, Connor Samuels, Robert Schainfeld, Catherine Shea, Janice Shumbata, Francine Slivka, Michael Slivka, Julia Smith, Dorothy Stafiniak, Maeve Stuckey, Patricia Telepchak, Irene Witanek, Sandra Wyslutsky

**Catechumens:** Jason & Taylor Fogel, Martha Klein, Chris Kiris, Mrudhuma Ravada, Lee & Jess Sneket, William Stofko, Kevin Walter

**Handmaiden:** Christina Heitzenrater, Kerry Kurtz, Amanda Riley, Corinne Stuckey, and their unborn children; Elizabeth Hockman and her newborn daughter

Please remember them and all our homebound and nursing home parishioners in your daily intercessory prayers.